

Sunrise Plate



Buffalo Plate



Frequently Asked Questions

How is the new license plate different from the old plate?

- The old general issue plate is embossed with raised letters designed with artwork featuring a buffalo and wheat and is currently referred to as the Buffalo Plate.
- The new general issue plates is a flat plate and features a photograph of a buffalo and a colorful North Dakota sunrise and will be referred to as the Sunrise plate. The new Sunrise Plate replaces the embossed motor vehicle license plates referred as the Buffalo plate (all sizes) and Lewis and Clark design.
- The Buffalo plate includes a series of three letters a space and three numbers for example HGT 123.
- The new Sunrise plate includes three numbers followed by a space and then followed by three letters such as [001 ABC](#).

When will the new plates be issued?

- Issuance began in November 2015. It will take approximately one and a half years to replace the general issue plate

Why did North Dakota change the current license plate?

- The 2013-2015 state legislature directed the NDDOT to create and distribute a new flat license plate for general issuance. The Buffalo Plate has been in use for 23 years and some of these plates are deteriorating and losing the reflectivity.

When will I get my new plate?

- Plates will be issued based on the vehicle registration renewal. For example if your renewal is in March 2016, you will get the Sunrise Plate for your vehicle upon renewal.
- You will receive a renewal notice in the mail and you can renew through the mail, online, or receive your plates at any Motor Vehicle Office. Click here for a link for statewide Motor Vehicle locations and hours of service <http://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/mv/docs/mvsiteloc.pdf>.

How much will the new plate cost?

- At this time there are no additional costs intended for citizens to obtain the standard series of the new Sunrise license plates.

Can I get my new plate before my renewal period?

- Yes, early registration is allowed if a current decal or tab is available and the owner pays next year's registration fee.

Can I keep my old plate number?

- Yes but if so, the plate becomes a personalized plate. You will need to fill out a Personalized/Special Request Plate form and a \$25 dollar annual fee would apply.
- See North Dakota Century Code regarding the issuance of Personalized Plate below.
 - **39-04-10.3. Personalized plates.**

At the request of a registrant, the department may provide special license plates marked with not more than seven numerals, letters, or ampersands, or combinations of numerals, letters, and ampersands, upon application for a special license plate and payment of an additional fee of twenty-five dollars per registration period, unless the plate is a gold star license plate or a prisoner of war license plate, then there is no additional charge.

Can I reserve a plate number?

- If you want any plate other than what is currently available in sequence at a Motor Vehicle office it would be considered a Personalized or Special Request Plate and a \$25 annual fee would apply.

I have a low number plate, will I be able to keep this number, when the new plates are issued?

- No, per North Dakota Century Code NDCC 39-04-08.1 Low number plates 0-99 for the Standard issue plates can only be issued and/or approved by the Deputy Director for Driver and Motor Vehicle.
- According to NDCC 39-04-08.01 Assignment of Motor Vehicle Number Plates-Motor Vehicle number plates may not be assigned as a reward for any political activity, in recognition of any political affiliation or membership in any political party, or on the basis of political favoritism. However an elected state office may be assigned a single or double digit number on a number plate as requested by that official. The department of transportation may adopt rules governing the assignment of the numbers on motor vehicle number plates in accordance with this section.

What do I do with my old plate(s) once I receive the new one?

- You are encouraged to recycle your old plates at your local recycling facility or you can bring it to your nearest motor vehicle office where they can be placed in a recycle bin and then will be disposed of properly.
- It is suggested to bend or cut your license plate in half before recycling to ensure that no one else is able to use the plate on another vehicle.

Special Request Plates/Personalized Plates

When will the new Sunrise Personalized Plate be issued?

- The NDDOT is currently working on this process and the personalized/special request plates will be issued at a later date.

How can I order a Personalized or Special Request Plate (SRP)?

- All special plate requests must be from the vehicle owner and made in writing by filling out SFN 53612, it is required to provide a meaning of the plate. All current personalized plates are subject to review and approval before issuance at the time of renewal. Please note, even if the customer has had the personalized or Vanity Plate for years, the plate will be reviewed at this time.
- Any personalized plates will need to be ordered and could take up to 4 - 6 weeks before it is received. Therefore, renewal of personalized plates as soon as you receive your renewal invoice is suggested.
- These requests can be made by providing the Motor Vehicle Department with one of the following documents:
 - 1. Submit form SFN 53612 – Special Plate Request
<http://www.dot.nd.gov/forms/SFN53612.pdf>
 - 2. Or, search the availability of the requested plate at
<http://apps.nd.gov/dot/mv/mvrenewal/plate.htm>
- North Dakota Century Code regarding the issuance of Special Request/ Personalized Plate
 - **39-04-10.3. Personalized plates.**

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Will the Lewis and Clark plates still be available?

- No. As of August 1, 2015, the Lewis and Clark plate is no longer being issued and will be replaced at the time of motor vehicle tab renewal when the new Sunrise plate is distributed.
- North Dakota Century Code 39-04-09.1 was repealed by state legislature in 2015 discontinuing the use of the Lewis and Clark plate.

What do I do if I currently have a Lewis and Clark plate on my vehicle?

- You will be issued a general Sunrise plate during your next renewal date. You are encouraged to recycle your old plates.
- If you have a Lewis and Clark Special Letter Plate, you will need to contact a Motor Vehicle office to request a different personalized plate, or you can choose to receive a standard issue plate.

Plates that will not be affected at this time include:

- The National Guard, Antique, Collector and POW plates will stay the same at this time until all current inventories have been exhausted. [Click here to see a poster of affected plates.](#)

Will other specialty plates be affected at this time?

- Yes, all general issue Buffalo plates including Mobility Impaired, Veteran, camper, trailer, organizational will be changed over to the new flat Sunrise plate
- Motorcycle plates will be replaced with flat plates when all current inventories have been exhausted.

Will organizational plates still be available?

- Yes, but they will be changed to the new Sunrise plate.
- Other embossed plates that do not have the Buffalo design on it will not be changed or replaced during this issuance. Non-buffalo plates will only be replaced with a flat plate after all current inventories have been exhausted or a special request has been submitted.

Will Motor Carrier plates be replaced?

- Yes, all motor carrier plates will be replaced with a new number defined in the new plate series.

****Please note that owners with apportioned plates must request to replace their existing Apportioned plate when renewing their IRP.**

Didn't get your questions answered here? Please email them to mv@nd.gov or call 1-844-NDPLATE (1-844-637-5283).